

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08484 262246Z

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-04 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2281

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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CORRECTED COPY (LONDON OMITTED)

NEA FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

FOR S/PRS

PASS USIA/INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, TECH, IN, US

SUBJECT: TIMES OF INDIA STORY ON DIEGO GARCIA

SUMMARY: DIEGO GARCIA AGAIN IN INDIAN PRESS WITH REPORT IT IS BEING DEVELOPED US NUCLEAR MISSILE AND SUBMARINE BASE; PAPERS ALSO GIVE PLAY TODAY TO SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON DIVERSION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR USE IN INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST. END SUMMARY.

1. THE US IS PLANNING DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR MISSILE AND
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SUBMARINE BASE FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA ACCORDING TO A

FRONT-PAGE JUNE 26 STORY IN THE TIMES OF INDIA FILED BY
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT M.V. KAMATH.

2. HEADLINED "N-MISSILE BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA LIKELY", THE
DISPATCH REPORTS AN UNDERGROUND SYSTEM ALREADY IS UNDER CON-
STRUCTION AND SAYS "HINTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE THAT SILOS FOR
NUCLEAR MISSILES ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE LIMITED LAND
SPACE AVAILABLE ON THE ISLAND".

3. ATTRIBUTING WORLD BANK SOURCES, KAMATH REPORTS, "THE CORAL-
STUDDERED ISLAND IS BEING DREDGED TO BERTH NUCLEAR SUBMARINES".

4. TYING IN RECENT DEVELOPMENT, HE CONTINUES, "BRITAIN HAS
PERMITTED AMERICA TO TRANSFORM THE ISLAND INTO A NUCLEAR BASE
IN EXCHANGE FOR THE PERMISSION IT GOT IN SITING A BRITISH NUCLEAR
TEST IN THE AMERICAN DESERT SANDS OF NEVADA. THE 'QUID PRO QUO'
AGREEMENT IS LEARNED TO HAVE BEEN SIGNED UNDER THE HEATH
ADMINISTRATION."

5. THE RAMBLING REPORT SPEAKS OF ASIAN AND AFRICAN DIPLOMATS
ANGRY AT BRITAIN FOR REGISTERING CONCERN OVER INDIA'S NUCLEAR
TEST AND AGREEING WITH US ON SUCH DUPLICITY AND CONCLUDES IN
MENTIONING WASHINGTON SPECULATION THAT BRITISH NAVY WILL GET
IMPROVED POLARIS WARHEADS FOR SUBS.

6. IF ASKED FOR COMMENT, EMBASSY SPOKESMAN WILL SAY THERE IS
ABSOLUTELY NO BASIS FOR REPORT.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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